



ELLEN SCHUTT

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 31ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

June 6, 2023

Testimony on Assembly Bill 225

Thank you Chairwoman VanderMeer and committee members for hearing Assembly Bill 225 today. This bill designates portions of Highway 11 from the western border of Orfordville to the eastern border of Footville as the "Corporal Benjamin H. Neal Memorial Highway."

Corporal Benjamin H. Neal graduated from Orfordville's Parkview High School in 2009, where he was active in Wrestling, FFA, and 4-H. On June 16, 2009, he enlisted in the United States Army, reported to Fort Benning, Georgia for Basic Training and graduated from Airborne School. On April 25, 2012, Corporal Neal was killed in action while on his second deployment in Afghanistan after his unit was attacked by an improvised explosive device.

Corporal Neal's military honors include the Purple Heart, NATO Medal, the Bronze Star, and the Army Commendation Medal, among numerous other distinguished honors.

Corporal Neal's bravery and service to our country touched countless people, and his death left a lasting impact on, not only Orfordville, but Rock County as a whole. To honor him, his community recommended we dedicate a portion of Highway 11 in his name, and this bill will do just that.

I appreciate you taking the time to hear this bill and welcome any questions you may have.



CLINTON STATE REPRESENTATIVE

ANDERSON

Assembly Committee on Transportation Testimony on Assembly Bill 225

Thank you Chair VanderMeer and members of the Assembly Committee on Transportation for hearing Assembly Bill 225. This bill is a stride towards remembering Corporal Benjamin H. Neal. Corporal Neal was a member of the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division of the U.S. Army. He died from injuries that were caused by an improvised explosive device during Operation Enduring Freedom in Zharay, Kandahar Province in Afghanistan on April 25, 2012. Corporal Neal's death was the first combat death for the village of Orfordville since World War I.

Renaming Highway 11 between Orfordville and Footville after Corporal Neal is important for the people of Orfordville and has bi-partisan support. This bill is about remembering someone who paid the ultimate price for this state and this country. This legislation is supported by the Wells-Davis-Young-Neal American Legion Post 209 in Orfordville and the Wisconsin American Legion. I hope that this section of highway will honor his service. Corporal Neal's legacy will live on and will cause those who drive down this stretch of Highway 11 to reflect on the sacrifice that he made for our country.



To: Assembly Committee on Transportation
From: Senator Mark Spreitzer
Re: Testimony on Assembly Bill 225
Date: June 6, 2023

Chair VanderMeer and committee members:

Thank you for hearing Assembly Bill 225, and for the opportunity to testify in favor of this bill. I would also like to thank Rep. Ellen Schutt, Rep. Clinton Anderson, Rep. Jenna Jacobson, Rep. James Edming, and Sen. Steve Nass for their partnership in introducing this bill with me. I am also grateful for the bipartisan group of legislators that have signed on as cosponsors of AB 225.

This important bill would rename the stretch of Highway 11 between Orfordville and Footville as the Corporal Benjamin H. Neal Memorial Highway. Benjamin Neal was a graduate of Parkview High School, where he was active in Wrestling, FFA, and 4-H. He joined the U.S. Army in June 2009 and was on his second deployment when he was killed in Afghanistan's Kandahar Province after his unit was attacked with an improvised explosive device on April 25, 2012.

Corporal Neal's military honors include the Purple Heart, NATO Medal, the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Stars, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

Corporal Neal's passing shocked his hometown of Orfordville, which had not seen a combat death since World War I. To commemorate his memory, his neighbors and community would like to name the stretch of Highway 11 between Orfordville and Footville the Corporal Benjamin H. Neal Memorial Highway.

As local legislators, we greatly appreciate your support in honoring the exceptional life and service of an extraordinary young man from our community. This bipartisan bill is supported by the Wells-Davis-Young-Neal American Legion Post 209 in Orfordville and the Wisconsin American Legion, and it passed unanimously out of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government and was passed by the State Senate last session.

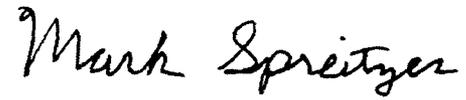
15th SENATE DISTRICT

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Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on this bill. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Spreitzer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'M'.

Mark Spreitzer
State Senator
15th Senate District